



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **MOUNTAIN AND LAKE SEARCHES CONTINUE TO KEEP RANGERS BUSY IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

Grand Teton National Park rangers conducted three major search and rescue efforts this week, providing assistance on the Grand Teton, Teewinot and Jenny Lake for overdue, injured and missing visitors.

The first incident began Monday morning, July 21, around 9:30 a.m., when rangers received notification of an overdue party on the Grand Teton. Jason Cronk, age 34, Mike Leatham, age 26, and Mike Johnston, age 24, all from Boise, Idaho, had spent a night in Valhalla Canyon and were attempting to climb the north ridge of the Grand. However, the climbers got off-route, ended up on the west face, and took two days to reach the summit. Since the party had been overdue for a full day, rangers conducted aerial reconnaissance to look for the group. The helicopter located the party beneath the summit around 6:45 p.m., descending towards the Lower Saddle. The three men signaled that they were all right and hiked out without assistance.

The second rescue began on Wednesday afternoon, July 23, at 4:30 p.m., when Ewart Tempest, a 40-year-old male from Ottawa, Ontario, slid roughly 150-200 feet on snow then tumbled 50-80 feet through rocks while descending from the summit of Teewinot, which he had reached earlier that day along with several friends. Tempest slipped on the steep snowfield near the Worshipper and the Idol and landed in the rocks below, incurring injuries to his hip. Although he did have an ice axe, he was unable to self-arrest. An off-duty ranger witnessed the accident and was the first to make contact with the injured hiker. Two Jenny Lake climbing rangers hiked up to assist Tempest, spent the night on the mountain with him, and helped him hike out Thursday morning.

Later that same evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m., another major search took place at Jenny Lake, when 23-year-old Brendan Kinsley, from Cincinnati, Ohio, disappeared while swimming offshore. Kinsley was swimming in the lake while his sister, 35-year-old Michele Onorato, relaxed on the east shore. Onorato had last spotted Kinsley about 200 yards from shore, when he had waved his arms at her. A short time later, however, Kinsley was nowhere in sight, and Onorato called park rangers for assistance. Taking into consideration Kinsley's possible dehydration and limited swimming experience combined with cold lake temperatures, rangers made the decision to begin an immediate large-scale search, including a helicopter, divers, several rescue boats, and Wyoming K-9 Search and Rescue. Kinsley had decided to swim across the lake, and he arrived safely on the west shore shortly after 7:30 p.m., several minutes before the search boats completed their sweep of the lake.

These incidents mark the eighth, ninth and tenth major search and rescue operations in the park this year.

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